

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU PROPOSES OPPOSITION UNITY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 8 PASOK PRESIDENT ANDREAS PAPANDREOU CALLED FOR A MEETING OF OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF COORDINATING ACTION ON ISSUES ON WHICH THEIR POSITIONS COINCIDE. EXCEPT FOR A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR (KKE-INTERIOR), THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC REACTION FROM OTHER OPPOSITION LEADERS. PAPANDREOU IS APPARENTLY SEEKING TO FOLLOW UP, HOWEVER, THROUGH A SERIES OF INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS WITH THE OTHER LEADERS LATER THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. PAPANDREOU ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 8 THAT HE HAD WRITTEN TO OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTY HEADS SUGGESTING A MEETING TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF CHARTING A UNIFIED COURSE OF ACTION IN AND OUT OF PARLIAMENT CONCERNING ISSUES ON WHICH THEIR POSITIONS ARE THE SAME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH COOPERATION WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN ELECTORAL FRONT NOR WOULD IT BE BINDING ON INDIVIDUAL PARTIES.

3. PAPANDREOU CITED TEN POINTS ON WHICH HE BELIEVES ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE AGREED: 1) THE CYPRUS PROBLEM SHOULD BE SOLVED WITHIN A UN FRAMEWORK; 2) NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AEGEAN
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SHOULD BE BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW; 3) TALKS ON U.S. BASES

SHOULD BE SUSPENDED; 4) ALL ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE MORALLY AND MATERIALLY TO NATIONAL DEFENSE AGAINST A FOREIGN THREAT; 5) CERTAIN ASPECTS OF DOMESTIC POLICY, ESPECIALLY DEJUNTIZATION, HAVE NOT BEEN HANDLED PROPERLY; 6) JUSTICE IS BEING TAKEN OVER BY REACTIONARY ELEMENTS WITH A JUNTIST PAST; 7) TRADE UNIONISM IS BEING WEAKENED; 8) LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS BEING WEAKENED; 9) THE NATIONAL ECONOMY IS BEING HANDED OVER TO MONOPOLIES AND TO GREEK AND FOREIGN FINANCIAL OLIGARCHIES; AND 10) THE GOVERNMENT IS INTERVENING IN EDUCATION.

4. PAPANDREOU REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR (KKE-EXTERIOR) SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES. (COMMENT: NEITHER THE MOSCOW-ORIENTED KKE-EXTERIOR NOR THE KKE-INTERIOR HAVE ENOUGH DEPUTIES IN PARLIAMENT TO PERMIT THEIR LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMAL DEBATES AS EQUALS WITH THE OTHER PARTY LEADERS. FOR EXAMPLE, NEITHER WAS ABLE TO MAKE A STATEMENT FROM THE FLOOR DURING THE FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE OF OCTOBER 20.)

5. SO FAR THE ONLY PUBLIC REACTION FROM ANOTHER PARTY CAME FROM CHARALAMBOS DRAKOPOULOS, SECRETARY OF THE KKE-INTERIOR. ACCORDING TO THE ATHENS PRESS, HE HAS SENT A LETTER TO PAPANDREOU AGREEING THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL ISSUES ON WHICH THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HOLD SIMILAR VIEWS WHICH MIGHT SERVE AS A STARTING POINT FOR MUTUAL COOPERATION AND THAT HE IS PREPARED TO MEET WITH OTHER OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS TO DISCUSS PAPANDREOU'S PROPOSAL.

6. PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED. THE KKE-INTERIOR'S ORGAN AVGHI ECHOES DRAKOPOULOS' ENTHUSIASM. LOBERAL TO VIMA REPORTS THE PROPOSAL WITHOUT COMMENT. RIGHTIST ESTIA ASKS RHETORICALLY AGAINST WHAT DANGER IS DAPANDREOU PROPOSING TO UNITE AND SUGGESTS THAT THE REAL DANGER TO GREECE IS FROM PAPANDREOU AND OTHER LEFTISTS. PRO-GOVERNMENT KATHIMERINI AND VRADYNI ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PAPANDREOU'S TARGET IS PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS AND POINT OUT THAT HE IS SUPPORTED BY 54 PER CENT OF THE GREEK ELECTORATE. THE VOICE OF THE KKE-EXTERIOR, RIZOSPATIS, WAS SILENT TODAY, PERHAPS WAITING TO SEE WHICH WAY THE KKE-I TERIOR WOULD JUMP. KUBISCH

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